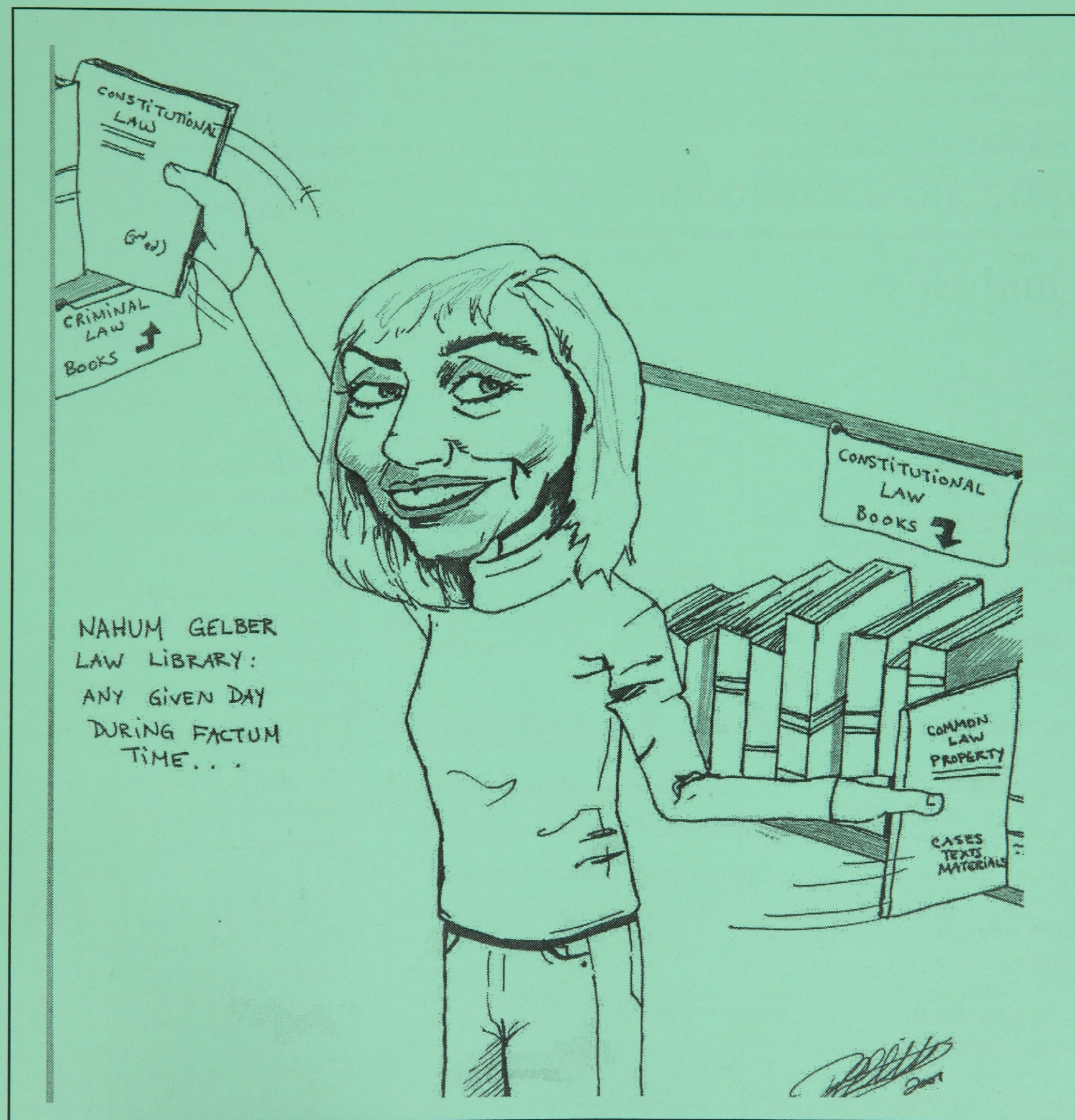


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Editors' notes

You are a sheep. As you sit reading this lame-ass excuse for an editor's note, please take a moment to acknowledge the fact that you are a sheep. Don't believe me? Take this simple test: Look at the person beside you. Now ask yourself how on earth any third party could ever distinguish you from the person beside you. The answer is that it would be impossible - you look the same, you talk the same, you even fuck the same. Don't take this as a criticism; after all, you really had no choice in the matter. Who wants to be an original when it's so much easier to buy that pre-packaged personality on sale at a shopping centre near you? Certainly not me. I'm supposed to be saying something clever right now but, as you may or may not know, sheep are not particularly clever.

Rebecca Hare.

PS - Marta, please don't ever leave town again.

submit to
the
QUID!!!

First and Lasting Impressions

by Charmaine Lyn, Law II

Since I returned from the international human rights internship in Cambodia, friends and colleagues have asked what my impressions were – about the work, the country, the people. During the internship, there were moments when I felt utterly confounded at how the Cambodian people could continue to so tirelessly work at rebuilding their country from the ground up, from Year Zero – which marked the beginning of the Khmer Rouge regime – all in the face of continuing corruption and crushing poverty. In the face of both a younger generation who did not understand or believe the horror that their parents lived through, and the millions of ghosts who did not survive it.

So, below is something that I emailed home in my first couple of weeks in Phnom Penh. It is the impression that stayed with me throughout my time there, and which has not left me yet.

May 25, 2001 – Phnom Penh:

Yesterday, we had a guest join us for dinner. She's a Cambodian

woman who runs a very active and well-respected NGO here in Phnom Penh. She told us about her home. She lives about 100 meters from Tuol Sleng Museum. Once a high school, it was taken over in 1975 by Pol Pot and then became known as Security Prison 21 – "S-21". It was the Khmer Rouge's largest detention and torture centre – many of its prisoners eventually sent to their deaths at Choeng Ek – "The Killing Fields".

Our guest told us how, when digging the foundation of her home, they found two bodies. Both had their hands tied – one with black electrical wire, the other with white nylon cord. She had the remains cremated. She went up to the provinces to find special marble urns. The urns now sit in a pagoda near her home.

They dug only deep enough for the foundation of the house, not wanting to disturb the ground any more than they needed to. So, every morning and every night, she lights incense and prays for the souls of the two that were found, and of whoever is still buried beneath or around her home. She prays for their well-being. When I asked if she prayed for protection, she smiled. "I have nothing to protect", she said. "I pray

for the well-being of their souls, and offer them everything I have".

She told us that Buddhists believe that if you take a needle and pierce the earth, anywhere, you pierce the ashes of the dead. No matter where you are. So, she said, "What the heck?"

Last Sunday I visited Choeng Ek. There, scattered across the lush green of the grounds, are holes in the ground. Mass graves. They are not big. They are roundish and empty. Some are covered with thatched roofs and have signs that say "106 dead, without heads". The others are uncovered, and have been overtaken by the grass that grows strong here. They have no signs and are in groups of four or five together with paths that run between them, above them – about a foot wide and grassy. So you can walk among them. On Sunday there were school kids there. As kids like to run between and around things – there they were, in their white shirts and blue skirts or shorts, smiling at me, and prancing along those paths, holding each others' hands.

About The Defense of America (A reply to Jonathan Amiel)

by Yasmine Hadjoudj, Nat IV

I just want to make a brief comment on the article with the solemn title "In Defense of America". A particular passage has struck me, and I feel a moral urge not to leave it unnoticed amongst your call to defend the country of democracy,

justice, and freedom. You said: « As for the attack itself, it wasn't meant as an indictment of an American foreign policy, it was a brutal protest of an American foreign policy, namely, America's continued support of the State of Israel (a policy which I believe to

be politically, strategically and *morally justified* ».

You are probably right that these terrorist acts were linked, indirectly, to the situation in the Palestinian occupied territories, but for now, I would like to tell you a little more about what you find

morally justified: I spent some time this summer in Ramallah, in the West Bank, and had a chance (if I may say) to have a taste of what Israel's aggressive occupation of the territories is like for residents of the West Bank and the Gaza strip, many of them born under occupation. I want you to know that the basic rights you take for granted are systematically violated for them, just because they are Palestinians. This population is, on a daily basis, collectively punished, humiliated, subjected to unbelievably harsh living conditions (curfews, besiegement, economic strangulations, restrictions on water, denial of building permits, apartheid-like zoning regulations in East Jerusalem...).

Not a single day passes without the expropriation and destruction of Palestinian lands and homes. Since September 2000, almost 4 million square meters of cultivable land has been destroyed and hundreds of thousands of olive trees uprooted, crops destroyed, in order to establish illegal permanent Israeli settlements, usually built on

hilltops on expropriated Palestinian land.

Six billion dollars annually, or about 8 millions a day from the USA¹ generously supports settlement activity, expansion of Israel's borders and the correlative driving out of the Palestinian populations. Besides, the USA requires Israel to use 75% of this aid to buy US-made arms.

You probably also know that the Israeli Defense forces use tanks, American Apache helicopters F16 planes, and heavy fire power against civilian targets, mainly children, women, refugees and Bedouins populations killed and injured everyday in shootings and tank attacks.

Your "comprehensive analysis of American Foreign Policy", (which could be summarized in "the US defend justice, peace and democracy in a world of aggressors"), is totally discredited by crucial aspects of American foreign policy that you silenced, and particularly its support of apartheid policies and state terrorism in Israel, practices that you politically and

morally justify.

When you say about Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Sudan: "I hope they get what they deserve", first of all who are "they"? Probably the same Iraqi children that are bombed every week by British and US forces or die as a result of sanctions, under the silence of most media. Second, do you think the kind of reaction you have will help put an end to terrorism?

Although it is never justified to fight atrocities with atrocities, and while condemning the horror of acts such as the 11th September events, one cannot serve justice and effectively fight terrorism without addressing the proper questions and critically assess US foreign policy, which directly contributes to the situation which continues, right now, in the Palestinian occupied territories and in other areas of the world; situations on which, sadly, very little is said.

¹ *Global Exchange*,
www.globalexchange.org

Don't the victims of terrorist attacks deserve a better response?

by Vesna Guzina, Nat IV

In last week's *Quid*, Jonathan Amiel stood in defense of America. While I respect his statements, I must unfortunately disagree. Respectfully, he missed the real issue.

While we all do condemn the terrorist acts committed on September 11th, we push ourselves to go beyond our emotional outrage. Our emotions should not conduct our reason.

That is why it is essential to address the right questions and try to find answers. That is precisely why there is always a 'but'. If there is no 'but', then our analysis and under-

standing of a problem would be highly superficial and potentially misleading. That is why the only question in such a case of violence is *not just* "who," but also "why" such an act was committed in order to understand the root of the problems. If those are ignored, they will be unresolved, regardless of our emotional outrage.

During past weeks, the answer as to 'why' was provided by the US in the following terms: we deal with an irrational enemy that hates democracy, is jealous of the freedom that the US offers, etc; however, the following analysis will

demonstrate that the 'why' is actually unrelated to the aforementioned.

Let us consider the war crusade. According to the US government, the planned attacks would be both just and legal under international law, or should be, justifiable under the UN Charter's right of self-defense. It is the same right that was relied on so often to excuse the US's past unilateral actions. The question is whether the "collateral damage" of thousands of dead civilians would be excessive. What about the immorality of killing civilians as collateral damage to make a political point? What about the Iraqi children that die

as a result of US policies?

The US beats the war drums incessantly, thereby making violence and repression the probable outcome of their efforts. We all know how the war will be conducted: the intensive bombing of the most devastated, ravaged, starvation-haunted and tragic country in the world. Afghanistan, ravaged by the Russian army for 10 years, abandoned by its friend – the US – once the Russians had left, is about to be attacked. And the US will win. Against Bin Laden. Against the Taliban. Against Iraq. Against whoever and whatever. In the process the US will kill innocent children again. Children who have no clothes for the coming winter. No houses to shelter them. No schools to learn why they are guilty, why they have to suffer.

We must not forget: No war

very close to invisible; their suffering, pain and dying are out of sight. The media coverage devoted to the Iraqi children is next to nothing. No breaking news about innocent victims of US bombs and “sanctions of mass destruction.” There is no indignation or suggestion that the mass killing of children in order to satisfy some policy end was immoral, unjust and outrageous. That is why we may tend to think that the causes are just. Have you heard about hundreds of children in Bosnia and Serbia that suffer from the effects of depleted uranium? I doubt it.

The focus is on whether Saddam Hussein will allow UN to inspect the sites of “weapons of mass destruction,” not on the mass death of children. The focus is on whether Milosevic will be punished, not on the mass infrastructure damage of

Serbia. I think that the focus should be on both aspects.

And what about the US campaign of seeking justice for terrorists?

The justice should and must be done. But, it is ironic for the US to bomb for justice, while at the same time refusing to join institutions to enforce the international justice. It specifically opposed the creation of an international criminal court on the grounds that its own citizens may one day be arraigned in front of it. And they not just may but should be confronted with justice. Why should they not be responsible for killings of thousands of civilians? US troops wiped out some 5,000 people in Panama's El Chorillo neighborhood on the excuse of looking for Noriega. He was hiding elsewhere but it destroyed El Chorillo because people living there wanted the US out of Panama. The US watched Pol Pot butcher millions by giving him arms and money, because he was opposed to the US enemy. It did not care about this outrage to human dignity. And these are just a few examples. The US must not ignore its own crimes. It

must acknowledge and confront them.

We are told that we must stand by America as America stood by us in the Second World War. Yes, it's true that America helped in liberating Western Europe. But in both world wars, the US chose to intervene after only a long and – in the case of the Second World War – very profitable period of neutrality. The US did not intervene till its soil was attacked...remember Pearl Harbor?

And the US initiatives: military ‘humanitarian’ aid for Latin America, bombs for Iraq, economic embargos on Cuba, among others. Noble initiatives.

It's a truly terrible irony that the only man the US is interested in receiving from Afghanistan is the man behind the greatest mass-murder in American history: bin Laden. The others, civilians, children, women, can stay at home and die. And they will: drought and starvation will kill millions. Millions will die but the US will send B-52s. The same B-52s that will not discriminate between combatants and women and children. The same B-52s that killed civilians during the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999. and Iraq. Needless to say, nothing was achieved. More Iraqis were killed, and the UN inspectors never got back, and sanctions continued, and Iraqi children continued to die. No policy, no perspective, no results. This is US 's 'making a difference.'

And that's where we stand today. Instead of helping Afghanistan, instead of pouring our aid into that country, rebuilding its cities and infrastructure, we left it to rot. Kabul would not be rebuilt. Democracy would not be set up in Afghanistan.

We busily argue and moralise, yet we ignore vital questions: why there are so many people in the world ready to die to give to the US a taste of what the US gives them?

So, my fellow colleagues, until next time. Who will it be then? How many innocent will die till then?

No policy, no perspective, no results. This is the US 'making a difference.'

will ever stop terrorism as long as we use terror to have our way.

And what about the US behavior in international affairs? Is the US just a victim of terrorism, or also a supporter of terrorism? During war in Afghanistan, the Afghan fighters were the good guys. Osama bin Laden was a good guy. The same Afghan guerrillas that the US wants to destroy were called “freedom fighters”. In Iraq, the United States and Britain had helped Saddam Hussein obtain weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s, and didn't object to his using them, until August 1990.

And what about US interventionism? It has been suggested that the US intervened abroad only in just causes. Just causes, you say? Half a million children have died because of sanctions against Iraq. That's more children than died in Hiroshima. But these hundreds of thousands of children dead in Iraq are

Interview: Revisionist Historian Challenges Account of Western-Islamic War - Says War Could Have Been Prevented

[Excerpt from *Economic and Political Weekly*, 23 June 2120 - 'Discovered' by Ashfaq Khalfan, Nat IV

Sitting at her coveted alcove at the prestigious Dag Hamarskjold Historical Institute in Kinshasa, Chandra Wang-Zhou appears to be a typical academic. Yet this Congolese-Indian scholar has raised a storm in historical and political circles by challenging accepted historical versions of the Islamic-Western wars of 2010 to 2024. She was severely criticised in the media after claiming that Usama Bin Laden was a marginal figure in the Muslim community during his lifetime. Last year, the Rio de Janeiro-based Bin Laden Foundation filed a court action requiring an accuracy audit of her work.

The *Economic and Political Weekly* personage team joined Wang-Zhou for an extensive interview. The full text is provided below:

EPE: Well, you have certainly caused quite a reaction. May I ask you what motivated you to take on such a sensitive topic?

Wang-Zhou: Actually, my encounter with 'mega-history' was entirely accidental. My original research plan was to study the political effects of differing technological media on international society. However, in studying television and 'newspaper' footage from the first five years of the 21st century, I was surprised by a significant degree of consensus between Islamic and Western peoples and states on a number of key issues. In accepted views of history, this phenomenon is almost totally absent. Instead, we are presented with an

account of two monolithic civilizations that opposed each other's every move.

In 1990, there was extensive support among Muslim states for an American led-coalition to expel Iraq from Kuwait. Saddam Hussein's efforts to present himself to Muslim peoples as their saviour were overall unsuccessful. In addition, Western powers (then organized as NATO) intervened in a number of conflicts on the side of Muslim peoples in Bosnia (albeit after a number of massacres) in 1995 and Kosovo in 1999, who were facing widespread attacks from the leaders of (Christian) Serbian communities.

An instance of cooperation and solidarity between Western and Muslim peoples came in 2001, when terrorists, probably assisted by the al-Qaeda and related institutions, destroyed the World Trade Centre in New York. The scale of the loss of life was such that the vast majority of Muslims condemned the bombings. In my media exhibition, I place people within some remarkable footage and descriptions of moments of silence being held in a football stadium and candle-lighting ceremonies in Iran, and prayers being held for the victims of the bombings in Cairo. Unfortunately, these were not adequately portrayed on the global news networks (then dominated by American, British and French networks and news agencies). Once the war started, these pictures were forgotten.

EPE: But what about the...

Wang-Zhou: Yes, I know, the coverage that 'lives in infamy' - so to speak - is of those Muslims who supported the bombing. Actually, it fed into my concern about the nature of the media at the time. While the print copy often stated that a *few* Muslims supported such views, in the audio-visual culture of the time, it was the television images of the minority radical groups that were given priority. In addition, you have to realize the technological limitations of the camera medium only allowed one to focus on a few scenes at a time and did not allow viewer control. This led to very selective representation by the reporters. This was problematic since media ethics of the time, as I realized, were woefully primitive.

EPE: I see. Well, to your major point, you have painted a rosy picture of the relations between the two sides at the time, but you have not even mentioned the many conflicts of between the West and Islam prior to the war.

Wang-Zhou: I do not deny that the world at the beginning of the 21st century was extraordinarily complex. Muslims were outraged by American support for Israel's repression of the Palestinians as well as Western support and assistance to dictatorships and kingdoms ruling Muslim peoples. In spite of initial agreement on the issue of Iraq, the long-term effects of Iraqi sanctions - the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians through the denial of their rights to

medicine and food – was another key issue. In turn, some groups had carried out provocative attacks on Israeli and Western civilians.

Aside from such tensions, Muslim states held common interest with the West on a number of other issues and cooperated on a whole host of political, economic and social initiatives. Although most Muslims disagreed with Western, and in particular American foreign policies, there was less of a perception that a war between the West and Islam was in the offing ... well, at least until the progressive escalation caused by the 'war against terrorism.'

Most of the outstanding issues could have been resolved peaceably. Muslim and Western states could have 'agreed to disagree' on those issues that were not resolved. In fact, in the immediate aftermath of the Trade Centre bombings, there was a magnificent opportunity for a closing of ranks between the West and Muslim states on the questions of terrorism and the Israel-Palestine issue.

In the period after the bombing, most states handled themselves relatively admirably. There were some unfortunate actions; the cynically opportunistic invasions of Palestinian cities on the orders of Prime Minister Sharon, and the irresponsible rhetoric thrown about by Saddam Hussein and Silvio Berlusconi. However, the leaders of most Western countries emphasized strongly that their quarrel was with terrorists and not with Islam and indeed forged together a coalition with Muslim states against terrorism. Western leaders insisted that Muslims in their own countries not be made scapegoats for the bombing. Muslim states, with the exception of Iraq, declared their opposition to the terrorist actions of al-Qaeda. Most Muslim religious leaders stated unambiguously that Islamic laws forbade the killing of non-combatants.

Given this feeling at the time, it is ridiculous to say that the eventual war was inevitable.

EPE: Yet the war happened. It seems that this consensus you refer to was merely one of temporary sentimentality. There was bound to be a conflict. Over the span of the latter half of the 20th century, we had an Islamic civilization recovering from years of colonialism, but still facing political, economic and cultural domination by the West. It required a balance of power and prestige between Islam and the West before reconciliation was possible.

Wang-Zhou: Absolutely not! You have just recited the mantra of the civilizational determinist school of thought, which is unscientific and unfounded. This theory was simply developed *ex post facto* as a way to

understanding. In addition, there was an undercurrent of racism in how it weighed the lives of its own soldiers relative to the lives of civilians from other countries.

EPE: Interesting. However, all this is quite easy for an intellectual to propound. What should Western leaders have done?

Wang-Zhou: Well, first of all, the American administration promised a pin-prick strike at the terrorists. From what we know about the behaviour of military bureaucracies and their socialization, in retrospect, it was unrealistic to expect the unreformed US military to limit itself as such. This helps to explain why the bombings of Kandahar and Kabul led to such massive losses of life. Secondly, there was sufficient public

The next mistake in particular was United States' insistence on its theory of "You are with us or you are against us."

describe a complex development of events.

There was a choice in this matter. There was a fair level of common denominator consensus or acquiescence between the two 'civilizations' on international governance. Furthermore, each of these so-called 'civilizations', in particular the Islamic grouping contained strong internal divisions. In particular, the Muslim world was going through tortured discussions and conflict on whether to adopt an Islamic or a Western character. At the end of the day, the hegemonic power, the United States, could have set the tone of relations between Western and Muslim states. Unfortunately, its policy was beset by short-term thinking and a lack of

awareness of the impending humanitarian disaster. The mere threat of US action, in view of its previous irresponsible 'wars from the air', led the population to panic, leading to massive refugee movements. Given that half of the population was chronically malnourished, the first priority of the West should have been to ensure the resumption of aid to the refugees.

The Afghan humanitarian tragedy, amid the continuing effects of sanctions in Iraq, was a seminal moment. It led to the widespread questions about double standards and suspicions that an American life was seen as many times more valuable than a Muslim one. The retaliation, far from being perceived as a just

response to the WTC bombings, was determined to be simply an 'eye for an eye.' It destroyed any hope that there could be a universal consensus on humanitarian laws. The establishment of the International Criminal Court was met with widespread scepticism. Indeed, the Security Council faced little opposition in its decision to dismantle the Court after its independent Prosecutor had attempted to charge Colin Powell with war crimes.

The next mistake in particular was United States' insistence on its theory of "You are with us or you are against us." This poisoned relations with states who were opposed to terrorists, but insisted on a UN-led, rather than US-led, initiative. Furthermore, Western states gained many enemies by giving military support to non-democratic regimes in the Muslim world and by supporting the suppression of all Islamist movements – even democratic and moderate groups. In doing so, they radicalized such movements. Such actions also led to the fall of the Khatemi government and the resuscitation of hard-line Islamist forces in Iran. Finally, the decision of the United States to attack armed groups that did not normally target civilians, such as Hizbollah in Lebanon, raised questions about the justness of the 'war on terrorism.'

The failure to solve the Israel-Palestine problem at this stage was inexcusable particularly since most Israelis and Palestinians at the time had accepted in principle that each nation had the right to a state. The US, in particular, should have used aid conditionality and diplomatic pressure to ensure Palestinian self-determination, Israeli security and to -provide for the reasonable resettlement of Palestinian refugees.

Finally, the Islamic-Western conflict was a result of a cynical trend in Western foreign policy. Let us not forget that al-Qaeda was set up with CIA assistance, in spite of knowledge of Bin Laden's extremist tendencies.

Hamas was encouraged by Israel in its early days. The United States assisted Iraq in its war with Iran from 1980 to 1988 and its support to the Taliban (though US proxies) as a counter to Iran until the late 1990's. In a sense, the West nurtured radical groups. We then see the 'dog bite its master syndrome' whereby such groups or regimes attacked the West so as create the appearance of an Islam-West conflict – an environment that could facilitate their claims to be the appropriate leaders of Muslims.

EPE: The Bin Laden Foundation takes severe objection to your portrayal of Usama Bin Laden as an isolated figure in the Muslim community.

Wang-Zhou: It is ironic that I am the person termed the revisionist. My research demonstrates that Bin Laden only had support among a marginal proportion of Muslims. He was widely condemned, in particular after the World Trade Centre bombings. It was only years after the CIA killed Bin Laden that a significant number of Muslims began to hold him up as a visionary who realised that the West allegedly wanted to destroy Islam. While accepting that his conduct was contrary to strict Islamic law, Bin Ladinists argued that departure from the *sharia* was justified by the prevailing environment. However, one must note that this position only gained significant support once both sides had dropped any pretence of following humanitarian law and had

committed significant atrocities.

EPE: Hmm. To conclude though, I think that a key reason why your work has received such challenge is its seeming implication in favour of the integrationists. If Islam and the West did not need to fight in the 21st century, then the need for the organisation of the global federation on religious lines could be challenged. We all know that. This is nothing but a claim of the integrationists who wish to eliminate all so-called 'barriers' within society.

Wang-Zhou: I have no such intentions. I personally support the current federal arrangement. The war did occur; it did shape our history and the path on which this planet has developed. Our institutions must reflect our combined experience. If my work had political connotations, it is only this: That our leaders realise that they have some scope for moral choice – that nothing is inevitable.

The 21st century war was caused by the inability of leaders to take broad visionary positions rather than being slaves to the election cycle or public opinion polls. Our leaders must not see themselves as are responsible only to their own provincial constituents, but also to a global constituency and they must bear allegiance to the rights of all citizens. Perhaps these ideals are utopian, but they are fundamentally necessary.

you want to track each trickle
back to its source
and then scream up the faucet
'til your face is hoarse
cuz you're surrounded by a world's worth
of things you just can't excuse
but you've got the hard cough of a chain smoker
and you're at the arctic circle playing strip poker
and it's getting colder and colder
everytime you lose
so go ahead
make your next bold move
tell us
what's the next thing you're gonna need to prove
to yourself

the ani page

As is frequently the case here at the *Quid*, we are unfortunately left with an empty page (damn that copy place and their insistence on multiples of four). Generally, I would just write some random nonsense but I m feeling a little less than inspired these days. Fortunately, much of what I think about has already been said (and much more eloquently than I could ever hope to do) by my goddess, ANI. And, since I m still young enough to believe that music has the power to change the world (or at least the world-view of the listener) I present, for your reading pleasure, some of my favorite Ani lyrics. Enjoy.

Rebecca.

i remember the first time I saw
someone
lying on the cold street
i thought: i can t just walk past here
this can t just be true
but i learned by example
to just keep moving my feet
it s amazing the things that we all
learn to do

so we re led by denial like lambs to
the slaughter
serving empires of style and carbon-
ated sugar water
and the old farm road s a four-lane
that leads to the mall
and our dreams are all guillotines
waiting to fall

i m wondering what it will take
for my country to rise
first we admit our mistakes
then we open our eyes
or nature succumbs to one last dumb
decision
and america the beautiful
is just one big subdivision

and win or lose just that we choose
this little war is what kills us
and either/or it s that this war
is maybe also what thrills us

i m invincible
so are you
we do all the things
they say we can t do
we walk around
in the middle of the night
and if it s too far to walk
we just hitch a ride

we got rings of dirt
around our necks
we talk like auctioneers
and we bounce like checks
we smell like shit
still when we walk down the street
all the boys line up
to throw themselves at our feet

it s a long long road
it s a big big world
we are wise wise women
we are giggling girls
we both carry a smile
to show when we re pleased
we both carry a switchblade
in our sleeves

i ve had a lack of information
i ve had a little revelation
i m climbing up on the railing
trying not to look down
i m gonna do my best swan dive
into shark infested waters
i m gonna pull out my tampon
and start splashing around

cuz i don t care if they eat me alive
i ve got better things to do than
survive
i ve got the memory of your warm
skin in my hands
and i ve got a vision of blue sky and
dry land

they can call me crazy if i fail
all the chance that i need
is one-in-a-million
and they can call me brilliant
if i succeed
gravity is nothing to me
i m moving at the speed of sound
i m just going to get my feet wet
until i drown

we are made to bleed
and scab and heal and bleed again
and turn every scar
into a joke
we are made to fight
and fuck and talk and fight again
and sit around and laugh
until we choke

what a waste of thumbs that are opposable
to make machines that are disposable and sell
them to seagulls flying in circles around one
big right wing
yes, the left wing was broken long ago
by the slingshot of cointelpro
and now it s so hard to have faith in anything

Dollar Stores Rock!

by Marta Juzwiak

Dollar Stores are my favourite thing about Montreal.

DISCLAIMER: I wouldn't buy shampoo or panties at a dollar store if you paid me. Actually, that's not totally true: I have bought shampoo at a dollar store before, but what came out of the bottle DEFINITELY wasn't shampoo. I'm still not sure what it was, but it reminded me a lot of the sticky goo I used to buy from toy dispensers when I was 9 years old. I used to throw the goo on stuff just so I could see the goo stick to and then slide slowly down a variety of surfaces. I wouldn't have put it on my hair then, and I won't put it on my hair now.

BEST OVERALL dollar store: There is a store called Le Meilleur Prix in the Peel metro station, on the Stanley side. I love it so much that I even know the saleslady by name. Le Meilleur Prix carries a wide array of paper, art and writing products and also has a good towel selection, a good kitchen supply selection, a bunch of home repair materials (nails, screws, etc), and lovely gift bags, boxes and wrapping paper. If you're going to send a package, they have bubble wrap, brown paper, and tie-tac.

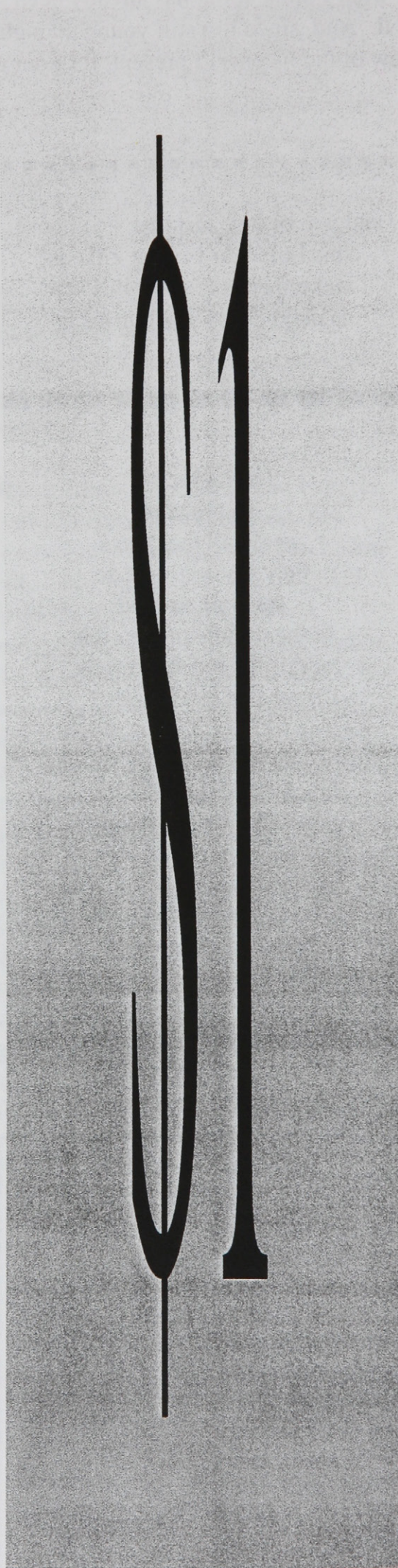
BEST KITCHEN SUPPLIES Dollar store: If you need odd kitchen supplies, like salad spinners or bowls, your best bet is to go to the Dollar

Cave on Cote des Neiges, about a block past the Metro Store. (You can get there by taking the 165/365 from Guy station). The Cave is a bit hit-and-miss, but it tends to be very good for random kitchen supplies.

BEST HOME REPAIR dollar store: There's a fairly decent dollar store on the street level of the Guy metro Station, on the Guy side. It's really great for home repair tools. It has random things like handles for your drawers and metal piping. It also carries light bulbs, batteries, fuses, nails, screws, screwdrivers, sealant remover, eye protection, masks etc. for MUCH less than you pay at regular stores.

BEST CHEAP HOME DECORATIONS Dollar Store: If you need a cheap mirror or a wall hanging or some random iron decorations, you should go to the 2nd floor of Place Alexis Nihon (attached to the Atwater metro station on the green line) and visit the dollar store there. I think it is called Mini Max. I bought two very satisfying large picture frames my favourite little suitcase there.

BEST ON SOCKS AND TIGHTS dollar store: If you need socks or hosiery, I would recommend the dollar store on the 1st floor of Place Alexis Nihon (Atwater metro). Note: do not buy the products at this dollar store before verifying that you cannot get them cheaper at the dollar store on the 2nd floor of the same mall.



Tales from the Barreau

by Al "Ex President" Mendelsohn, Alumnus I

Greetings from the great beyond! No, I'm not in hell, just at the Barreau du Qu'bec. Well, maybe same difference. Anyway, thanks to the generosity, patience and all-around nice-guyishness of my friend and work colleague, NAT IV student David Johnson, I have been receiving and reading Quids regularly. And I'm really not sure why, but I have the most powerful desire to submit to the Quid, submit to the Quid. I thought subliminal advertising was illegal these days.

And speaking of advertising, before I delve into the epic adventure that is l'cole du Barreau, I wanted to weigh in with some comments on the seemingly neverending issue of firm sponsorship at the Faculty. Since I am no longer unencumbered by the obligations of higher office (for you first years out there I was LSA President last year), I feel I can finally say a few things without worrying about offending. Because the Quid's all about offending people, right? (submit to the Quid, submit to the Quid)

I would like to preface my comments, also for the people out there who don't really know me, by saying I'm a pretty left-wing guy. I gravitate back and forth between the NDP and the Liberals (actually last election I voted Marijuana Party). I'm pro-choice, pro-gun control, I believe in the welfare state and big government. Even though I have an MBA, I'm not in this game for the money. But I am a realist. With democracy comes capitalism. And capitalism means businesses and firms spending money to attract our attention. And that means Law Students taking advantage of that. If that means you have to put up with a few banners in the Atrium and the

name of Firm X on your free highlighter, I say so be it.

Here's what life would be like at the Faculty without firm sponsorship. No LSA agenda, unless you want to pay about 12 bucks for it. Your free boat cruise? Dry-dock. The McGill tradition of the sponsored Coffee Haus booze fest? You'll have to head to Gert's instead, and no one wants that, except for one alumnus who shall remain nameless (Jono). Skit Nite? Still a great show, but it makes about five thousand dollars for charity instead of twenty-five. Oh, you say, I could live with all of that if I can just relax and watch a little TV in the basement. Sorry, it was donated by Firm X. I could go on and on about what firm sponsorship does for the students, but I think my friend Seb, your VPPR, did a great and eloquent job of making the point in the September 18 Quid.

So you think, maybe firm sponsorship is OK, but can't we just tone it down a bit? I say, turn it up further! Milk those guys for everything they've got. Take their money and run. Here's the secret, for those of you who don't like to see firm names around the Faculty: don't look. Take their cash and gifts and ignore which firm it comes from. Go to Careers Day, get a free mug, and use it. Who gives a shit if it says Firm X on it? It's a damn good mug! If you're really bothered, put some tape over the name like the hockey players do on their gloves and sticks when they play internationally. Alright, maybe it's hard to ignore a 10 foot long banner at a Sponsored Coffee Haus, but you're drunk, so your vision's probably fuzzy and you can't read it anyway.

Well, what was to have been a nice little story about what goes on at the Barreau has turned into the ramblings of a crazy old man. For

those still reading and actually looking for details of what it's like at the Barreau, this paragraph's for you. It's tough. There is a LOT of reading, and I don't mean reading that can be ignored until late November like at Law School. I swear, we were supposed to have read 80 pages of material before the first day. Don't worry, I didn't do it. But I'm still catching up. And the reading is not warm and friendly, it's very dense and you must read it carefully. That translates to about 5-7 pages per hour (I'm not kidding, and that's on a good day). On top of the 20-60 pages you have to read for each day, there are exercises and travaux préparatoires you are supposed to do as well (I rarely do). Class can be useful, depending on who's teaching. I had great teachers for Ethics and Procedure, but my current Evidence teacher sucks, plain and simple. It's unfortunately the luck of the draw as to whether your class has a good one or one of those who literally read from the book. Anyway, I'm plugging along and will keep you updated as to how things go. The first exam (out of six total between now and the end) is October 11, and it's probably the hardest, Preuve et Procédure - the Phuckin Menace. I think I'm phucked.

Well that about wraps it up for now from the great beyond. I miss you all (well, those of you who I know), and I miss the Faculty, sponsored by Firm X.

P.S. If you have comments or real questions about my views or the Barreau, please feel free to contact me at almendelsohn@hotmail.com. Or just say hi.

Trash Talk

by Michelle Williams and Hilary Stedwill

Michelle Williams and Hilary Stedwill — two McGill law students who don't agree on anything, — prepare trash talk weekly. For your weekly amusement, we have documented our off-the-cuff rants and sent them to the Quid to go with your Tuesday morning coffee. You can write us, respectively, at: mwilli16@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca or hstedw@po-box.mcgill.ca to tell us if we're full of crap, if you agree, or if you would prefer that we kept this to ourselves. We'll listen to you probably about as well as we listen to each other!

Hilary: I was reading about Socrates this past weekend (cause, you know, what else does a geek like me do with his time on weekends), and learned about the creation of universities in Greek society and the subsequent carry-overs by various orders of churches and governments when the nation-state came into being. Universities were meant as places to teach you to think, not work. Apprenticeships, guilds and the like teach you how to work.

So why is everyone all about having practical exercises in university classes? If you want practical skills, go work. If you want to think, stay here. Makes me wonder if universal access to a university education is good public policy.

What do you think smarty-pants?

Michelle: I never understand why people feel a need to draw such a sharp distinction between practical exercises and learning. It seems to me that any learning done, even if it is done alone with a book, translates into some practical skills. In addition to the skill of reading, which obviously has many applications, it only teaches skills such as reasoning and

creative thinking and creative writing. I think even the most theoretical of learning environments ultimately offer skills which can be transferred into a real life existence.

Ok, so maybe university isn't going to teach you how to fix a leaky tap, but it will teach you ways to think about problem solving, skills in communication to discuss the problem with the landlord and if worse comes to worse the ability to read difficult/new material (i.e. Bob Villa's How-To Plumbing Book) and fix the problem yourself. I know the cliché is that university is about teaching you how to think, but I believe that this is a skill, which the government should support at any cost. A thinking population is a population that is progressive and will grow. To argue against such a position would ultimately lead to the intellectual stagnation of the Canada population.

Unfortunately you may miss this point completely, or in the words of Euripides, talk sense to a fool and he calls you foolish.

Hilary: Maybe practical exercises wasn't specific enough. The impression I get is that university students want skills training, and who can blame them when employers will not employ anyone without a university education. A university has come to equal a job, but it was never meant to — quite the opposite.

Take computer science, for example. Computer lovers join the program because it gives them the accreditation that they need to convince someone to employ them, or lend them money to start their own firm, but learn most of their programming skills and ability to work by hacking and programming on their own. They get their grades by sharing assignments (much like law students share summaries) and get

their jobs by their guild work (so I am told, anyway).

North American education systems have bastardized Socrates Academy into a one-stop-job-shop, which is far from what it was conceived as. I agree with you about its place in society and the importance of supporting the institution with public dollars, but it shouldn't teach you how to do a job.

But you would know all this if you came down from the Ivory Tower from time to time.

Michelle: From what I recall about Socrates, he wouldn't have been the type of guy to stop progress. If the world is changing the education and university system should change and respond to the changing demands of society. The criticism is that a BA in anything is a waste of time. I disagree. Learning in a university environment provides a unique environment to be exposed to students and teachers with different perspectives. It teaches more than just how to read and write, but how to interact.

It is funny that you raise this issue. Back in my neck of the woods, there wages a heated debate about what to do with those who are unemployed. The problem is that there is a large population of uneducated but trained individuals who are now unemployed when the mines ran out of coal. The question is whether they should just be trained in another skill (i.e. Call center telemarketing) or be sent to university. It is likely that telemarketing may put food on the table quicker, but when the call center closes, the cyclical problem of uneducated and intellectually diversified people will still remain.

And Mr. Practical, where do you think you would have heard of Socrates had it not been for that Ivy League education?

McGill Law's Chess Club Corner

by Pablo E. Bustos

Many people, including myself, noticed that the solution to last week's chess problem was not on page 24, as stated in last week's Quid. In fact, the Quid staff committed an error, and the solution to last week's chess problem was on the back cover of the Quid.

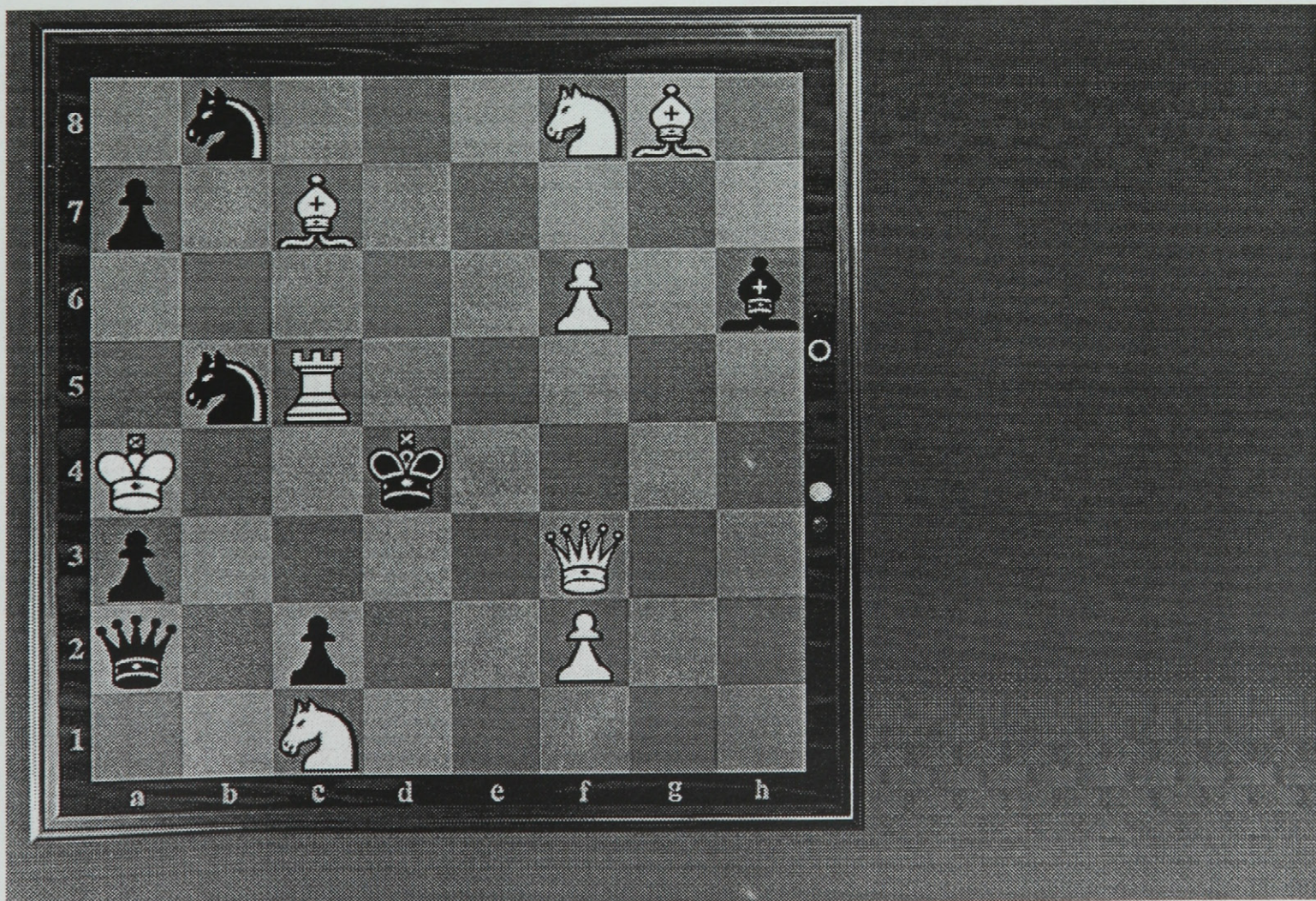
Not to worry, there will be many chess problems to come; one problem for each upcoming Quid issue this year. Also, although the chess club remains unorganized, and thus its immediate future remains unclear, we are planning a few chess nights and hopefully a chess tournament where the name of the winner will be placed on a trophy. Hopefully, this will start a tradition, and each year a new winner can have his or her name placed on the trophy.

One piece of news from the chess world itself; the eccentric former world champion, Bobby Fischer, is reputedly playing chess on the internet *incognito*.

Fischer won the world chess championship from Spassky in 1972, but renounced the title in 1975. He has made only one public chess appearance since 1972, in a 1992 match in Yugoslavia against Spassky where the prize fund equalled \$U.S. 5,000,000. Although Fischer won the match, he was indicted by his home country, the U.S., for violating an executive order by then President Bush I forbidding Americans from doing business in Yugoslavia.

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White to play and mate in two moves.



Solution on page 12.

Interview Humour

found by Adam Allouba

This was recently posted on rec.humor.funny.reruns. With interviews approaching I thought it might come in handy for us job seekers.

We've all been interviewed for jobs. And, we've all spent most of those interviews thinking about what not to do. Don't bite your nails. Don't fidget. Don't interrupt. Don't belch. If we did any of the don'ts, we knew we'd disqualify ourselves instantly. But some job applicants go light years beyond this. We surveyed top personnel executives of 100 major American corporations and asked for stories of unusual behavior by job applicants. The lowlights:

1. ... stretched out on the floor to fill out the job application.
2. She wore a Walkman and said she could listen to me and the music at the same time.
3. A balding candidate abruptly excused himself. Returned to office a few minutes later, wearing a hairpiece.
4. ... asked to see interviewer's resume to see if the personnel executive was qualified to judge the candidate.
5. ... announced she hadn't had lunch and proceeded to eat a hamburger and french fries in the interviewer's office - wiping the ketchup on her sleeve.
6. Stated that, if he were hired, he would demonstrate his loyalty by having the corporate logo tattooed on his forearm.

7. Interrupted to phone his therapist for advice on answering specific interview questions.

8. When I asked him about his hobbies, he stood up and started tap dancing around my office.

9. At the end of the interview, while I stood there dumbstruck, went through my purse, took out a brush, brushed his hair, and left.

10. ... pulled out a Polaroid camera and snapped a flash picture of me. Said he collected photos of everyone who interviewed him.

11. Said he wasn't interested because the position paid too much.

12. While I was on a long-distance phone call, the applicant took out a copy of Penthouse, and looked through the photos only, stopping longest at the centerfold.

13. During the interview, an alarm clock went off from the candidate's brief case. He took it out, shut it off, apologized and said he had to leave for another interview.

14. A telephone call came in for the job applicant. It was from his wife. His side of the conversation went like this: Which company? When do I start? What's the salary? I said, I assume you're not

interested in conducting the interview any further. He promptly responded, I am as long as you'll pay me more.

10. [The candidate] pulled out a Polaroid camera and snapped a flash picture of me. Said he collected photos of everyone who interviewed him.

I didn't hire him, but later found out there was no other job offer. It was a scam to get a higher offer.

15. His attache [case] opened when he picked it up and the contents spilled, revealing ladies' undergarments and assorted makeup and perfume.

16. Candidate said he really didn't want to get a job, but the unemployment office needed proof that he was looking for one.

17. ... asked who the lovely babe was, pointing to the picture on my desk. When I said it was my wife, he asked if she was home now and wanted my phone number. I called security.

18. Pointing to a black case he carried into my office, he said that if he was not hired, the bomb would go off. Disbelieving, I began to state why he would never be hired and that I was going to call the police. He then reached down to the case, flipped a switch and ran. No one was injured, but I did need to get a new desk.

HAVE A DRINK...

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

1ST ANNUAL COFFEEHAUS

OCTOBER 4, 2001

4:30 - 7:00PM

EXCITING FOOD, SANGRIA
AND PLENTY OF COFFEE HAUS BEER!!!

Career and Placement Office

Hi,

I will not have time to do the Newsletter today. However there are a few things I wanted to mention to the students participating in the US recruitment:

- It is all done at the OMNI Hotel, 1050 Sherbrooke St. W. from Oct. 1 to Oct. 5 incl.
- I communicated almost all the appointments by phone for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- I received Cleary Gotlieb's list not too long ago today. I will try to do the scheduling for Monday ASAP and will call the students on Saturday at the latest. I want to thank you for your understanding in this specific case.
- The CPO will have a list of employers/Interviewers/Room numbers by the end of the afternoon today. I will leave copies in a box under the CPO boards near the

cafeteria for those of you who would like to get a copy over the week-end. In any case, I will have copies available at the hotel on Monday.

- Drop by the Salon Sherbooke, 2nd floor, prior to your interviews to inquire about last minute details/changes. I will spend a good part of my day there on Monday. In any case, you will be able to reach me on my cell phone: 898-8323.

- There might be of change of room number for Paul Weiss. Double check with me on Monday prior to your interview.

- If the firm has an hospitality suite, you have to go to it 10-15 minutes prior to your interview time.

- You are expected to knock at the interview door only at the exact time of your interview.

Just a reminder that if the transcript you submitted to firms with your application does not include summer courses, or all courses for which you are now registered, you may be asked to confirm that you expect to graduate by May 2003.

Good luck,

Brigitte

Solution to the chess problem

White bishop
on G8 moves to
D5. Black
makes
any move.
White mates
accordingly.